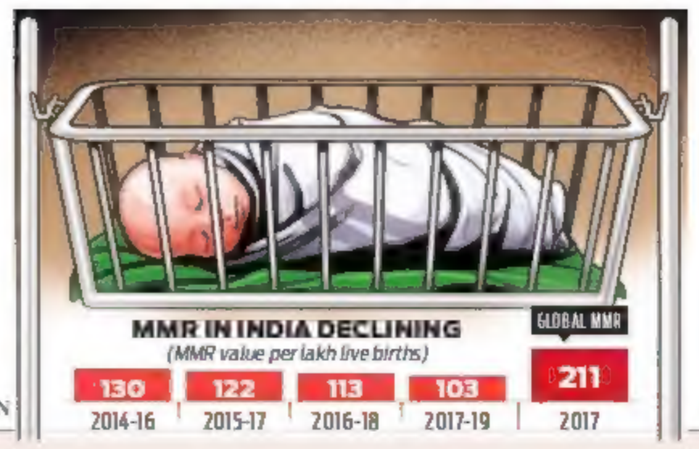
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION



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INDIA'S MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE DOWN IN LAST 10 YEARS, SAYS W.H.O.

India joins six other countries that have seen a drop in maternal mortality in the last 10 years, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday

MORE LIVES SAVED DURING LIVE BIRTHS

The maternal mortality rate (MMR) in India has declined significantly, the WHO said at a regional meeting in Colombo (see graphic). But it is still some distance away from the target of under-70 per lakh live births by 2030 set by the UN in 2015. Bangladesh, Bhutan, DPR Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the other countries that have seen a drop in MMRs

UNDER-5 MORTALITY RATE TOO DECLINES

- Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra, TN, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka have achieved the UN target on maternal mortality
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal are on track to reduce under-5 mortality. For India, the under-5 mortality rate was 32 per 1,000 live births in 2020 as against 35 per 1,000 live birth in 2019 | P9

40%

REDUCTION IN NEWBORN MORTALITY RECORDED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

WOMEN'S QUOTA BILL TABLED, TO SAIL IN LS TODAY

33% RESERVATION IN PARLIAMENT & STATE ASSEMBLIES; 2029 FIRST WINDOW FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

MARKING a new beginning on the first day of the new Parliament House, the Narendra Modi government on Tuesday tabled the long pending Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha to block 33% seats for women in Parliament and legislative assemblies. However, according to Constitutional experts, the bill is unlikely to be implemented before 2029 as it can be done only after the completion of delimitation exercise based on the first Census after the Bill becomes law.

The discussion on the bill in Lok Sabha on Wednesday is likely to see heated exchanges as it is learnt that Congress leader Sonia Gandhi will lead the debate from the Opposition camp. If the bill comes into force, the number of women MPs in Lok Sabha will go up to 181 from the current 82. It also proposes one-third quota for women within the seats reserved for SC/STs. As per the bill introduced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the quota rollout can happen only after the delimitation or redrawing of constituencies based on data from the first Census after the legislation is notified.

Constitutional expert P D T Achary said it is unlikely that the bill will be implemented before 2029. "The seats will be reserved after the completion of the delimitation exercise based on the first Census after the bill is passed. All the existing constituencies have to be redrawn by the delimitation commission. Then they have to identify the constituencies to be reserved for women. This is going to be a long-drawn process," says Achary. Though the decadal Census was to be carried out in 2021, it was postponed because of Covid-19. The government is yet to announce a fresh date for the exercise.

Achary said the constituencies will be redrawn only after the next Census, which is likely after 2026. According to the Constitution (84th Amendment) Act, there is a freeze on readjustment of constituencies till the first Census after 2026. "After the 2024 elections, the new Lok Sabha will be in office and it cannot be tampered with till its term expires in 2029. So the delimitation will be completed only after 2029," he said. He addedthat the bill needs to be ratified by not less than 50% of the state assemblies. Before that, the bill needs to be passed by special majority (a majority of the total number in the House plus a majority of two-thirds of the House present and voting) in both Houses, he says. P9

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will strengthen our democracy. We are committed to making this bill into a law

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The bill says it will be implemented only after census and delimitation. So doors are closed till 2029

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks towards the new Parliament building, in New Delhi on Tuesday | PTI

Steeplechase before the actual rollout

FOR WOMEN'S RESERVATION TO COME INTO EFFECT, 3 FACTORS HAVE TO BE SATISFIED

A The bill has to be passed by Parliament and notified

B The national headcount or census after the bill is passed would be the starting point

C A delimitation exercise, which means redrawing of constituencies, will follow after the census to carve out more seats. Quota rollout would be on the basis of delimitation outcome. Delimitation can begin only after 2026

SINCE IT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL, IT NEEDS TO BE PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES WITH SPECIAL MAJORITY

Majority of the total members of each House

Two-thirds majority of members present and voting

* It will also have to be approved by at least 50% of state assemblies to become a law

Akhilesh, Mayawati demand reservation for SC, ST & OBCs

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

UP satraps — the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) — on Tuesday extended their support to the Women's Reservation Bill, but with riders.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav stuck to his stance of carving out a quota for women from the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and minorities within the 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

Significantly, he demanded that the right to reserve seats must rest with the political parties and not with the Election Commission.

Akhilesh went on to add that the bill must balance gender and social justice.

For her part, BSP president Mayawati extended her support to the bill, hoping it would be passed this time around after discussion.

She said her party would have been happier had the quota been hiked to 50%. While the bill provides for one-third quota for women within the seats for reserved for SC/STs, Mayawati said whatever the quantum of quota, that for women from the SC, ST and OBCs should be worked out separately. She also sought a transparent and time-bound implementation of the legislation.

Mayawati wants more quota in bill

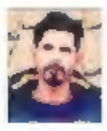
"If a separate quota is not assured to the SC, ST and OBC women, it will be difficult for them to get a chance on general category seats because casteist parties do not want to see them grow," said Mayawati

EXPRESS READ

Man guzzles 10 sachets of neat liquor, dies

Hassan: A senior citizen, who accepted an "alcohol challenge" by his friend, died at Sigaranahalli of Holenarasipur taluk on Tuesday. Thimmegowda (60) died after drinking 10 sachets of 90ml liquor neat in 30 minutes| P3

LeT commander killed in J&K gunfight



Srinagar: Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Uzair Khan was among the two terrorists killed in a gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag that ended after seven days, ADGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said | P10

Hoysala temples on World Heritage List

Bengaluru/Hassan: Hoysala-era temples of Belur, Halebid and Somanathapura have made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List that was announced late on Monday night | P5

India, Canada lock horns over terror, expel diplomats

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE frayed India-Canada ties sank to a new low on Tuesday with both countries expelling one diplomat of each other. The high-voltage drama unfolded with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaking in the House of Commons in the morning about "credible allegations that India was involved in the killing of slain Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar", a charge rejected by India as 'absurd'.

Parallelly, Canada's foreign minister Melanie Joly announced the expulsion of Indian diplomat Pavan Kumar Rai, prompting a tit-for-tat action from India as it asked Canadian diplomat Olivier Sylvestere to leave the country.

In a strongly worded statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said. "Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The inaction of the Canadian government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern," it added.

The diplomatic face-off between India and Canada over the Khalistani issue has been brewing for the past few years. Recently, when Trudeau was in Delhi to attend the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had strongly raised concerns about the Khalistani extremism in Canada.

Trudeau responded that Canada would not encourage violence but would continue to support freedom of expression.

Amid tensions, talks for an India-Canada free trade agreement (FTA) have been put on hold. Experts say the diplomatic strain is likely to continue.

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau speaks in the House of Commons in Ottawa | PTI

KHALISTANI ANGLE

Trudeau's allegation is an attempt to deflect attention from the Khalistani activists operating from Canadian soil, ex-Indian envoy to Canada Vishnu Prakash told TNIE in an interview | P9

88th BIRTHDAY

N.P.V. RAMASAMY UDAYAR

Founder - Chancellor,
Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)

You have proved that education alone
will not yield one's future.
Creativity, entrepreneurship, hard work and
relentless effort are all
necessary to become a leader.
The greatest wealth you have
left to this country is a
medical citadel (SRIHER) which has
paved the way for excellent
health care professionals.
On this day, we bow our head and
salute you for your formidable thought
and epoch making endeavour.

V.R. Venkataachalam

Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)

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Min: 30% hike in property guidance value from Oct 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

REVENUE Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Tuesday that the guidance value of properties is being revised and the new guidance value will come into effect on October 1.

The guidance value will be increased up to 25-30%. This is expected to help the state government generate additional revenue of Rs 2,000 crore, he told reporters.

Byre Gowda said according to rules, the guidance value should be revised every year. But it has not been revised for five years. This is causing loss and injustice to those who sell their land. This has resulted in property value being undervalued at the time of registration by buyers, especially realtors, thereby causing a big loss to the government. That is why the guidance value is being revised, he added.

On the revision of guidance value, the minister said if the market value and guidance value are the same, in such regions, the guidance value will be increased by 10%. If the market value is 200 times more than the guidance value, in such regions, the guidance value will be increased by 20-25%.

In places such as Electronics City in Bengaluru, the market value has increased 500 times over the guidance value. If the guidance value of land near a national highway is between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh and the market value is over Rs 10 crore, in such places, it will be increased by 50%, he said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Virus kills 7 leopard cubs at B'ghatta Park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BANNERGHATTA Biological Park (BBP) reported deaths of seven leopard cubs between August 22 and September 5 because of Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV) infection.

However, no new cases of viral infection have been reported since September 5, according to zoo officials.

BBP Executive Director AV Surya Sen told The New Indian Express that this is the first time that the cat species in the zoo died because of this virus. Earlier, the animals suffered from various infections, including foot-and-mouth disease.

He said 11 leopard cubs and one lion cub had been infected with the virus. Of them, seven leopard cubs died. Although all animals in the zoo had been vaccinated for this virus, seven leopard cubs died. It could be a new strain. Vaccination for this virus will be included in the list of booster doses to be administered to the animals annually.

According to zoo officials, one vaccinated female leopard cub, which was rescued from BRT Tiger Reserve, fell ill on August 21. Despite treatment, the cub died on August 22.

Postmortem and PCR diagnosis confirmed that the death was due to FPV infection.

CONTINUED ON: P5